

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 19 Aug 1963

SUBJECT Bagirov, M D/Beria, L P

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE TRANSMISSION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

## 1. Bagirov, M D/Beria, L P -

talents, but is extremely weak on theory. He possesses certain organizational talents. He speaks Russian with an accent and makes grammatical errors. Bagirov received very little formal education which was limited to the grammar school level. He received his Marxist education during the years of 1930-1931 in Moscow.

## 2. Bagirov's career can be divided into the following periods: The first period began during the British occupation of Azerbaijan in 1918 when Bagirov played an important role clandestinely as chief of the City Police (i.e., Soviet agent of the Cheka in Baku).

Although he joined the Party in 1917, his political face was not clear during this period.

## 3. The second period covers the time when the fate of Azerbaijan was being sealed by the bolsheviks in 1920. Beria was then directing the underground, where he met Bagirov and his sister, whom Beria married. Upon the seizure of Azerbaijan by the bolsheviks, Bagirov became the head of the Cheka and Beria his assistant. Being a Georgian, Beria could not be given the command of the Cheka in Azerbaijan, therefore, Bagirov, who was a Turk-Azerbaijanian, headed it. In reality, however, the Baku Cheka was run by Beria.

## 4. The third period of Bagirov's career took place during the years of collectivization (1928-1929) and the years of the first purge through 1933. The consolidation of bolshevik power in the Caucasus during these years was characterized by the cooperation with the bolsheviks on the part of "national" Communists, who in reality were the forerunners of Titoism. However, toward the end of 1929 the liquidation of these national Communists was ordered by Moscow. To achieve this it became necessary to resort to Lenin and Stalin slogans calling for the creation of national republics within the orbit of Moscow. It was Bagirov who liquidated the national Communists of Azerbaijan -- Buzaidzade, Okhundov, Sultanov and Narimanov. The fight for the centralization of power was soon won and all appointments were made by Moscow. Bagirov first was made

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

DISTRIBUTION											
State EV	ONE	X	PSA	X							

25X1

25X1

SECRET

- 2 -

chairman of the Council of Ministers, and later first secretary of the Central Committee of Azerbaijan. At the same time Beria received the post of deputy chief of the Georgian GPU and later became its head. After 1931, Beria was made secretary of the Georgian Central Committee (as Bagirov in Azerbaijan).

5. Then came the fourth period of Bagirov's career, 1937-1941. In 1937 there were twelve Union Republics in the Soviet Union and while all republican secretaries except Beria and Bagirov were liquidated, these two, not only survived but were admitted into the Central Committee. In 1937 the Central Committee consisted of 128 members and only 15 (excluding the Politburo) remained free, among them Beria and Bagirov, which speaks well for their political shrewdness and cleverness. In 1937 Beria flew to Moscow and succeeded in forcing an investigation of Yezhov's activities by a commission headed by Molotov, as a result of which Beria replaced Yezhov and began his Moscow or national career.
6. Bagirov drinks, smokes and is sociable. Although independent by nature, he was a tool in the hands of Stalin whom he served ideologically and not by any design. Among the Azerbaijanians Bagirov always enjoyed the reputation of being a Turkophile and a Russophile. He is a practical man and an organizer, but not a theoretician. His writing is done for him by his Party apparatus. After Beria he is the best informed man on MVD techniques. Like Stalin and Beria, Bagirov is a product of the Oriental political training, outwardly loyal and inwardly treacherous. One cannot trust him.
7. Bagirov has a thorough knowledge of the Near and Middle East, its people, their psychology and history. He is considered a specialist in diversionsist activities in Iran, Turkish Azerbaijan and even the Arab States of the Near East, and Soviet intelligence always works with him.
8. The present stage. Bagirov's career was his election as an alternate member of the Presidium. However, in April of 1953 he was relieved of his job as first secretary of Azerbaijan and was put back in the job of Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan. This is definitely a demotion. The former MVD minister of Azerbaijan, Yakubov (a Turk) was made the first secretary in place of Bagirov. Bagirov thus has become #2 master of Azerbaijan which, of course, throws a shadow on his Presidium job. How he could be demoted while Beria is the strongest man in the Soviet Union is not clear yet.

-end-

SECRET

25X1